Tackling food insecurity
An update on how the Selby Food Hub is addressing food poverty

By Luchia Robinson

The Selby Food Hub is in its eighth month of operation, having first opened in April to tackle food insecurity, in response to Covid-19 in Tottenham.

By mid-August the team of volunteers based at the Selby Centre – coordinated by community organisers, Sally Sturgeon and Moussa Amine Sylla, from the Selby Trust – had given out over 20,000 food (and essential items) parcels, over 800 ready meals and had collaborated with various organisations including the NHS and Haringey Council to reach over 3,000 local people.

Moussa said: “The idea is to take a humanitarian approach to the crisis rather than a bureaucratic procedural approach. We believe that if you come to the Selby Centre and you queue, that means that you need food, and for us, that’s it.

“We want to serve those who do not have access to the system’s support because there are a lot of people living in Tottenham that do not have access to public funds or support systems, especially in the context of Universal Credit. We’ve seen people coming because, between claiming benefits and having their first meeting, they might have had to wait about eight weeks.”

Selby Food Hub operates twice a week serving families, individuals and patients in great need, referred to them by GPs, social prescribers and schools.

Following the government’s announcement of a second lockdown in October, the Selby Food Hub has seen a recent growth in visitors.

“In an average week, [prior to the second lockdown], we’d be giving away 1200-1500 food parcels, but

now we’ve easily started giving 2,000 food parcels, which to us represents 2,000 mouths being fed on a weekly basis,” said Moussa.

To date, the value of the food and essential items donated by the public has amounted to approximately £50,000. These consistent donations have enabled the food hub team to sustain supplies. The harnessing of strong relationships with mutual aid groups across the borough has been pivotal in ensuring food items remain well stocked.

Sally and Moussa are now applying their knowledge and experience towards supporting the Haringey Food Network – a borough-wide initiative funded by Haringey Council, which aims to meet the needs of families experiencing food insecurity.

Moussa said: “The Food Network Coordinator will be working with us collaboratively to develop a network of food provisions all across the borough. This is quite interesting and uplifting in terms of recognising the work we do.

“There is a lot of hidden work and expertise to what we do and the way we do it.”

The Selby Food Hub has welcomed 68 volunteers since it began. “Collaboration is key,” said Moussa.

“Our values and ethos are people led – not coming from top down, Continued on Page-3

As a not-for-profit organisation, we need your support to help produce Tottenham Community Press. Scan this code with your PayPal app to support our publishers Social Spider CIC with a one-off donation.
**WELCOME**

**Steeped in Difficulties**

**December 2020**

No. 41

At Tottenham Community Press we believe that Tottenham deserves a newspaper that is written by and for local people, which celebrates community in all its diversity. We believe that local news brings people together around the issues that matter most to them and ensures everyone can have a voice in local decision-making. More now than ever we believe that the media should be responsive and accountable to the community it serves.

Publisher
David Floyd

Editor
Luchia Robinson

Designer
Jonathan Duncan

Head of Community News Operations
Page Balmi

Head of Advertising and Membership
Klaudia Kiss

Head of Engagement
Penny Dampier

Contributors
Shannon Gunter, Simon Allin, Bella Saul, Basíl Coelho, Oriâ Follà, Maria Joseph, Alice Elswa, Haringey Green New Deal Hub, Katon, Lucie Kegan

**TCP’s complaints**

Clear complaints are a fundamental issue of what’s been a globally tumultuous year.

This month TCP caught up with the team at the Selby Food Hub (front page) for an update on how they are working to address food insecurity within the community this Christmas and beyond.

Local businesses have also been affected by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. A way that you can support them, if you have the means, is to shop locally this Christmas. You’ll find some available offers on page 8.

We focus on the High Road West development (p.6-7), speaking to local residents and businesses, and assessing the next steps in the regeneration scheme.

**News**

**“There are a lot of people living in Tottenham that do not have access to public funds or support systems”**

but bottom-up. It elicits from people, and understand their need, whatever they are: to create a system of support whereby they can develop any of their aspirations. That helps them to connect with others, and also spread the word and the idea to other cells and groups.

“I’ve never seen such a solidarity in Tottenham.”

Hannah Marshall, staff member at the food hub, when it first started, said: “My experience has been really good. Initially in the beginning there was a really great way of actually doing something and being around people, and I needed it, after spending a huge amount of time on my own.”

“Being able to give food to people who need it. It’s hard work, it’s quite physically demanding but there’s a good atmosphere.”

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“Of the seven families the food hub has been able to engage with each week, four are young people with food through
tough times. (p.12) Social and physical health programmes coordinated by Enterprising UK has also been launched, ensuring local volunteering initiatives are giving them something to do and a chance to socialise with others. (p.12) Social and physical health programmes coordinated by Enterprising UK has also been launched, ensuring local volunteers are giving them something to do and a chance to socialise with others.

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Saving the Cloud Garden
Locals lobby to ensure patch of land is not sold for development

To friends of the Cloud Garden, Haringey residents have handed a 560-name petition to the leader of Haringey Council Cllr Joseph Ejiofor, calling for the land behind 7-9 Bruce Grove to be saved from development.

The group is asking that the council secures the land for the community and for nature. They propose officially calling the space the Cloud Garden in homage to the scientist Luke Howard, a former resident of number seven who in the early nineteenth century gave the clouds their names.

Handing over the petition, mainly signed by Tottenham residents, group member Beverley Willie said: “It is so important to have a space built-up and needs more natural green space - the old garden was a bit of a baby. The land is threatened with development - instead they should preserve it, and it is for local people. We want the council to use its powers to save it.”

Thanking the group for the petition, Cllr Ejiofor said he fully supported the campaign. “The Cloud Garden is in our sights for nature and local people. It has strong planning protection and we are firmly opposed to it being built on. We will do whatever we can to achieve this. We thank the Friends group for their work in highlighting the site and building local support for it.”

Cllr Ejiofor added: “We need the assurance that national government will keep to its word and fund local government appropriately”

Haringey Council has called on the government to deliver on its promise to provide adequate health and care support and local businesses through the coronavirus pandemic.

To date, the council has spent £57m to implement pubic health and care support and £16m to support local businesses through the coronavirus pandemic.

“Let us hope that the government will deliver on its promise to provide adequate health and care support and local businesses through the coronavirus pandemic,” said Cllr Beverley Willie, Leader of Haringey Council. 

“Council demands covid financial support from government

Residents on Love Lane Estate frustrated by lack of communication with council

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FOCUS: HIGH ROAD WEST

Living in limbo

Living in temporary accommodation has left tenants suspicious of a housing team who haven’t been able to offer them a permanent home. With 3,100 homeless households in temporary accommodation across the borough and 10,000 households on the waiting list for permanent social housing, the council faces significant pressures. Although the number of households presenting as homeless has dropped in the last ten years it has not been accompanied by an increase in social housing lets. As a result, it is not unusual for families to languish in temporary accommodation for decades.

“Living in limbo turns into a mini HRW consultation/promotion for a ‘Yes’ vote on the ballot. Not very neutral is it.” Cllr Charles Adje, cabinet member for finance and strategic regeneration, said: “The council has committed to providing new homes on High Road West to council tenants and resident leaseholders from Love Lane. Our ambition is to work with the GLA to explore ways to increase the number of council owned social rent homes for this scheme which could support a wider number of local residents in housing need. The council is committed to meeting the GLA’s requirement for a resident ballot on whether the regeneration scheme should go ahead and will only proceed when the additional homes and funding have been secured.”

However, the council is struggling to regain residents’ trust. Living in temporary accommodation has left tenants suspicious of a housing team who haven’t been able to offer them a permanent home.

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The Nigerian Tapes Notebook

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tottenhamcommunitypress.co.uk/gift

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£25/£35/£50

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Email: hello@prestigepatisserie.com
Visit: table-13.square.site

By BasileClarke

“If you find yourself homeless or on the edge of becoming homeless and distrustful, there is likely to be the homlessness prevention charity that will help you stay where you are, or, if you’re already homeless, provide emergency accommodation and support to you to find somewhere more permanent. APAP began operation ten years ago in Haringey and four years later in Enfield, coordinating volunteer-run winter night shelters set up in places of worship, finding accommodation for guests to move on to, and working with them collaboratively to create a pathway plan for their future. Over the winter of 2019/20, those shelters provided 267 bed nights, put up 168 individual guests, and found somewhere to live for nearly half of them. APAP support workers can help clients find accommodation without an upfront deposit, source missing documents, register with a GP, come up with a benefit claim, and much more. They trust and provide a safe environment for clients to open up about their underlying problems and begin to deal with them. In autumn last year, APAP’s operations expanded. In addition to the night shelter model, where a different church or synagogue houses guests one night a week, APAP set up static shelters; in Haringey, a former care home, in Enfield, a disused industrial unit. They took on additional staff to run them, and APAP became a year-round professional operation with 18 staff. The expansion came just in time, because the arrival of Covid-19 made it necessary to house rough sleepers for the duration of lockdown. But it also meant that the dormitory model APAP was used to was unworkable – it would take only one person with the virus to infect everyone else breathing the same air. Single rooms became essential. The former Haringey care home could be adapted without too much difficulty, but in Enfield the industrial unit could not. The solution was for Enfield Council to take over a hotel in Edmonton, which APAP helped run until it closed in August. Currently, APAP has one shelter operating, in the former care home, with room for 30 guests. Instead of the guests moving between churches, a different church group or community group comes to the shelter each night, providing food and keeping guests safe and engaged. In January this will be joined by a sixth bedroom house in Enfield, where guests can stay while APAP works with them to find somewhere to live. APAP could easily fill more such houses, but can’t afford to own them. To support clients, including people not yet homeless but at risk of becoming so, APAP has a day centre in Haringey and is planning to set up an outreach centre in Enfield, providing access to support workers and laundry facilities. Expansion and professionalisation have not diminished the importance of volunteer support, whether from individuals or community groups. Volunteers provide food and toiletries, take turns to run the shelters, maintain and clean the buildings, and help raise awareness of the charity. Much of their income comes from small individual donations. In the face of growing unemployment and debt, likely to lead to evictions, APAP needs every helping hand and every penny it can get. Could you or your community group step in to help at shelters or to raise money? For more information and to offer support: Email info@apapfoolshampln.org Visit apapfoolshampln.org

Haringey Giving

Haringey Giving Week 30th Nov - 6th Dec

Local events, grants, partnerships and collections will be taking place during the week. Come along to any of the events and find out more about the work that is going on in Haringey. Don’t forget to give to your favourite Haringey Giving campaign.

www.haringeygiving.org.uk

Give local to support Haringey’s community organisations this Christmas.
Their services are needed this year more than ever.
Donate • Fundraise • Partner

#HaringeyGiving Week

All donations will support vital local community projects

Text HIVE003 to 70707 to give £1
Text HIVE004 to 70971 to give £10

Haringey Giving is administered by The Bridge Renewal Trust, a registered as a Charity in England and Wales, number 1121941.

To make a donation and get involved, visit our website and follow us on social media.
New creative business directory launches to support local talent

A new website has been launched to showcase Tottenham’s creative talent.

The creative business directory, Made by Tottenham, features profiles of local people and businesses across media, visual arts, architecture, design, crafts, fashion, music and performing arts.

The directory aims to: raise the profile of creatives within and beyond the local area; establish new connections locally and across the wider London creative community; showcase and discover talent; and facilitate direct employment, paid opportunities and commissions, as well as inspire a new generation of creatives.

Tottenham is one of London’s most creative areas, with almost one in five residents working in the creative industries - London’s fastest growing sector prior to the pandemic. Made by Tottenham is supported by the GLA and Haringey Council as part of the Creative Enterprise Zone programme. The initiative celebrates the local creative economy by providing business advice and guidance, skills and training, as well as a platform for news, events and opportunities.

Local creative individuals and organisations can sign up and create their own profile on Made by Tottenham, enabling other businesses, prospective collaborators and the wider community to browse and discover their work.

Cllr Gideon Bull, cabinet member for local investment and economic growth, said: “Tottenham has always been home to creatives and makers, from the silk and lace factories, furniture manufacturers and piano makers of the past, to musicians, producers, designers, artists, filmmakers and many more creatives that inhabit the borough today. “The Made by Tottenham creative business directory shines a light on the incredible talent available locally.”

Franklin Boateng, social media and business consultant, said: “I think it is amazing that there are a lot of people like myself that work in Tottenham but still don’t know who else is in Tottenham working hard. “Tottenham is one of the best creative hubs of the UK, we just need to know and see who’s here.”

The directory is managed by the economic development team at Haringey Council with support from Hazel Brown and many local creatives who contributed their time to developing the platform.

David Lammy Member of Parliament for Tottenham, said: “I am so proud to represent one of the most creative communities in the country. In these challenging times, I’m grateful to Made by Tottenham for their tireless support of the creative industry, showcasing the indispensability of local talent to the national economic recovery.”

For more information:
Visit madebytottenham.com
Instagram @madebytottenham
Social and physical health programmes launched for local BAME communities

By Alice Ekwalla, Project Manager, Embrace UK

Embrace UK, a community support centre based at the Kally Centre, is delivering a new project called Golden Lives. The project is aimed at people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, and those with learning disabilities. It is funded by grants from local and national organisations.

The idea is to provide a supportive environment where people can connect with others, engage in activities and build networks.

In addition to regular support sessions, there are also workshops, debates, befriending services, massages, and art and crafts workshops.

The sessions are free and open to anyone who identifies as Black, Asian, and minority ethnic.

For more information: info@embraceuk.org

Messy play delivering much needed support to families

By Maria Joseph, Coordinator, The Engine Room

Messy play sessions provide a safe space where adults can interact with their children and build bonds.

The sessions include a variety of activities such as painting, sewing, and puzzles.

For more information: contact@theregion.org.uk

Organising during a global pandemic for an improved Tottenham

Why Tottenham needs to Build Back Better

By Haringey Green New Deal Hub

Organising community activity during a global pandemic and national lockdown is no easy task. But that’s what we at Haringey Green New Deal Hub, a team of local volunteers, have been doing over the last few months.

We’ve been working on the Build Back Better campaign for a year. In January 2021, we launched a new project called ‘Green New Deal’. It is a non-profit organisation formed in 2019 by supporters of the ‘BAME communities in the borough, seeking solutions to the negative impact BAME communities have on the local community.

BAME communities have shown that BAME populations have a lower awareness of both cancer symptoms and cancer screening programmes. Differences in perceptions and barriers to screening are experienced by these groups. This is a significant challenge.

For more information: info@greennewdealhub.org

Calm in the storm

Lydia Odeh and Zania Lipe

I would like to encourage the readers of TCP to stay calm in this unprecedented time we are in.

As most people are working from home, now parents feel they need to be there for their children, having worked from home during lockdown to help with homework, making sure they were following the rules.

This month, we asked our team to share their experiences of working from home and give tips on how to keep calm in the storm.

Emma says: “I am engaged locally with several grassroots community groups, and we delivered the letter to David and Catherine via an online meeting a few weeks ago. We are really happy that both MPs are behind our campaign and we look forward to working with them as we move forward.”

For more information: info@embracelives.org.uk

No need to speed

George Dunstall

I am making contact with friends of the issue of speeding along the A10. The Roundway and surrounding roads is a significant and longstanding issue along this stretch of the A10. I am proud to say we have engaght some support locally to get the council to address the issue and we have launched a local campaign to tackle all the barriers to screening high lighted during the focus sessions. This project will help ensure there are improvements in these communities.

For more information: info@embraceuk.org.uk

“The new roundway 2020”

I am writing to a local committee to ask for an improved Tottenham.

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I am making contact with friends of the issue of speeding along the A10. The Roundway and surrounding roads is a significant and longstanding issue along this stretch of the A10. I am proud to say we have engaght some support locally to get the council to address the issue and we have launched a local campaign to tackle all the barriers to screening high lighted during the focus sessions. This project will help ensure there are improvements in these communities.

For more information: info@embraceuk.org.uk

“The new roundway 2020”

I am writing to a local committee to ask for an improved Tottenham.

As most people are working from home, now parents feel they need to be there for their children, having worked from home during lockdown to help with homework, making sure they were following the rules.

This month, we asked our team to share their experiences of working from home and give tips on how to keep calm in the storm.

Emma says: “I am engaged locally with several grassroots community groups, and we delivered the letter to David and Catherine via an online meeting a few weeks ago. We are really happy that both MPs are behind our campaign and we look forward to working with them as we move forward.”

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The truth and lies laying beneath democracy

Karin Lock reviews ‘This Is Not Propaganda’ by Peter Pomerantsev

This is the time to walk along the hidden rivers hand in hand; to write the time of a strangely quiet land.

This is the time to breathe again, to stand and stare, to skip and run…

The water rippled by the rain, the water dappled by the sun.

This is the time to dance across the sea of sorrow and of yarrow, to sink into the gilded grass without a worry of tomorrow.

This is the time to hear the heart of the neglected earth, to find the long-forgotten lark in your beloved humming’s valley.

By Christina Egan

I was the overnight arrival of a three-piece suit, television and fridge freezer that constituted neighbours. Residents knew they were onto something new for 20 years. A wall at the end of our street leading to Broad Lane had attracted London’s fly tippers. Moghaddam had been killed by police a hundred metres away and youngsters who lived from the retail park across the street during the resulting raids had been handled badly just terms. The ensuing garnishment in the area meant many could only dream of buying one of the thousand new homes being built nearby. It felt like there was no tomorrow anymore.

“Stomach after I was invited to paint the closing mural of the London Mural festi-
val. The shape of the wall and its location were perfect for what I had in mind.”

The moulders were able to help shape how the piece would look and feel.

“It’s nice to be celebrated for just being yourself” and Central, South and North America. Dreph spoke of the summer evening that he first met Njilli and Nj with fondness, he said: “I spent some time calling and I shared my creative process with them. That struck me about them was that although they are different in so many ways, the essence between them was so real. I know immediately that I wanted to collaborate.”

“I come across as an introvert and Hillary adds: “The mural is beautiful. It really encapsulates our British artistic heritage, with its vibrancy and strength. The pandemic has taught us that we don’t do this, and it’s only a matter of conceiving another’s back so we can lift one another up. Njilli (Nj) has become so much forward to having my own daughter some day and helping her with her struggles.”

The Springfield Road mural has become a focal point for the community watched over by its two guardian angels. Dreph said: “The mural took six days and was a pleasure to paint. As a former seven-bedroom resident, I’m happy that the artwork has been so warmly embraced by so many in the local community.”

This book is horrifying and fascinating in equal measure. Despite having become more mobilised for positive social change than ever before, our segmented world of “opinion, support or that” has resulted in “apathy, division and mistrust”. This is Not Propaganda aims to look behind both political messaging and social media vitriol to see that democracy our society can be once facts lose their relevance and truth is opti

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Support independent local journalism

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These are challenging times for print media with many newspapers closing and advertising revenue in decline, but our not-for-profit model offers a new approach to creating local journalism which is inclusive and accountable.

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As a not-for-profit publication we rely on the generous support of our community. We look to our readers, who recognise the value of independent journalism, to help support us.

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£20 per month: Name and logo in print and online, 20% discount on advertising

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